

Verbo(c)ity

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There are two kinds of cities in this country. There's the big city with the big C - like New York City, Jersey City, Atlantic City, Kansas City, Oklahoma City, Salt Lake City, Carson City, etc. The centers of these cities usually have wall to wall people, tourist traps, big city prices, manmade canyons of bricks and steel, gridlock traffic, noise, foul air, crime, etc.

But then there are the cities with the small c. These are places where you don't have to look straight up to see the sky, where the people are friendly, the atmosphere less chaotic, the air breathable and where life is simpler – places like **Simplicity**. Small cities usually have less neon, fewer touristy trappings, and authentic local goods. One such city is aptly named **Authenticity**. The appeal of small cities is their relaxing atmosphere that draws you in, inviting you to stay longer and longer. **Tenacity** is such a place. Occasionally you come upon a dirty, blighted city, like **Atrocity**, which is one big slum area with lots of neglected, run down ghettos. The best view of this city is in your rear view mirror. A few small cities still show the scars from natural disasters. Ugly natural scars was **Scarcity**'s landscape after a tornado. **Capacity** is an interesting and popular stop, which is why its motels are usually full. However, over-capacity is not a problem thanks to the abundance of bed and breakfast establishments offered in private family homes in **Domesticity**.

Some cities have unique attractions. For **Catholicity** it's old churches and cathedrals, while for **Velocity** it's its racetrack. A great place to visit in mid-June, when the sweet-scented rhododendron is in bloom, is **Aromaticity**. But, a great place to stay away from, especially during the summer, is **Toxicity**, with its huge landfill and hot winds. A gathering place and magnet for all types of weirdos, anti-social, far-out fringe types is **Eccentricity**. By contrast, nearby **Ethnicity** is made up of normal neighborhoods of almost every nationality. The most lively and energetic of all of these municipalities is a place called **Vivacity**. Unfortunately, some small cities keep expanding their population and stretching their borders, as in the case of **Elasticity**, until they take on big city problems like pollution and smog. That's what happened to the air quality in **Opacity**.

Unlike the big C cities, these small c cities are often not easy to find on the map. They don't advertise or promote their attractions and locations. There is one place though that is doing something to change that. It's called **Publicity**.